The Future of the Nation's Aquatic Resources: Recommendations for the Next Administration

The American Fisheries Society is coordinating a discussion about our freshwater and marine aquatic resources. Our goal is to work with public and private partners to develop recommendations on aquatic resources science, management, policy, and education for the next presidential administration. Your input is crucial to our success, and is encouraged throughout this process.



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Overview

Our nation will elect a new president this fall, with new leadership cascading throughout the executive branch:

National Marine Fisheries Service

Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

• US Forest Service

General Accountability Office

• Bureau of Land Management

• Natural Resource Conservation Service

"The Future of the Nation's Aquatic Resources" will include a set of key science, management, and policy recommendations to provide to the next administration.



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Other organizations have developed similar products:







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Issue/Topic Areas that may be covered by recommendations

Habitat protection, restoration, and mitigation

 Citizen science/participation and transparency

- Conservation of fish stocks through sustainable management
- Technological innovations for fisheries management

Aquatic invasive species

- Climate Change
- Aquaculture research and management
 Ecosystem-Based Management

Budgets and staffing

Drought/Resilient Systems



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Collaborative Effort

• This is not just an AFS effort.

AFS has taken the lead in the beginning, but is looking for multiple organizations to participate and lead.





How Can You and Your Organization/Agency Become Involved?

- Attend future discussion meetings or convene your own
- Provide comments and recommendations on content, packaging our messages, level of detail, tips to develop consensus, and more
- Provide specific comments and recommendations for each topic presented
- Share your recent publications on strategic plans, priorities, etc.



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Timeline for the Project

Jan – March: Issue Topic Selection/Recommendation Collection

- Meetings with partner organizations
- Compiling recommendations received in-person or via email

March – July: Content Drafting

- Section working groups draft content for document
- Leadership team compiles sections

August: Presentation at AFS Annual Meeting

- Receive feedback from symposium attendees
- Final drafting, incorporating comments and feedback

September – October: Final Presentations

- Congressional Briefings
- Obama Administration Presentation

November: Final Production

• Give to newly elected administration officials



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Your Suggestions are Invited

- Please share your ideas for recommendations, groups to contact, events to attend, report formats, etc.
- And remember AFS is seeking partners to help coordinate this effort.
- Email Tom Bigford (<u>tbigford@fisheries.org</u>) and Taylor Pool (<u>tpool@fisheries.org</u>) at AFS. Or call 301/897-8616.

Thanks for attending!

